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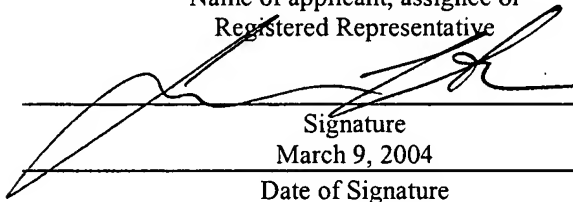
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

On  
March 9, 2004

Date of Deposit

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March 9, 2004  
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Technology Center 2100

Our Case No. 6270/72

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: )  
Blackett, et al. )  
Serial No.: 10/024,896 )  
Filing Date: December 17, 2001 )  
For: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR MASTER )  
SLAVE PROTOCOL )  
COMMUNICATION IN AN )  
INTELLIGENT ELECTRONIC DEVICE )

Examiner: Rodriguez, Paul L.  
Group Art Unit No.: 2125

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Prior to the examination of the present application, please enter the following  
preliminary amendment: